



DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE

Programme for Combating Hate Crime (1300540)

**FUNDED THROUGH
EXTRABUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Warsaw, September 2012

Programme for Combating Hate Crime (1300540)

Current budget: EUR 465,535¹

1. Background

OSCE participating States have made commitments to combat hate crimes, and in particular to collect data on hate crimes,² to consider enacting or strengthening legislation prohibiting discrimination and hate crimes,³ to ensure that officials have the necessary skills to address the issue properly⁴ and to co-operate with civil society. This programme is part of ODIHR's overall strategy to assist participating States in their efforts to prevent and respond to violent manifestations of intolerance and to promote mutual respect and understanding.

2. Approach

The programme's objective is to assist participating States to develop an integrated and structured response to addressing hate crime. Such a response, which recognizes the different aspects of the problem, is essential to ensure discernable impact and sustainability. This programme reflects the need for improved legal and policy frameworks, and the importance of using tools which are already available to fight hate crimes.⁵

2.1 *Planned activities for 2012-2013 (funds permitting)*

Practical guides related to hate crimes

In consultation with an expert reference group of prosecutors from the OSCE region and other relevant stakeholders, ODIHR is currently drafting two practical guides: for prosecuting hate crimes and on collecting hate crime data. These guides will support States in improving their national, strategic response to understanding and responding to hate crime, in line with OSCE commitments. ODIHR will organize the launch of these publications at separate events and will promote them further through presentation at relevant meetings and consultation events in a national or international context.

Training of government officials, police, judges, prosecutors, and civil society

ODIHR will continue to implement its TAHCLE programme (Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement)⁶ and training for prosecutors and judges at the request of participating States or field operations. TAHCLE involves close collaboration with local authorities: the curriculum will be tailored to reflect specific challenges in each country and translated into the local language. ODIHR will follow-up with local authorities to ensure that the curriculum is adapted further if necessary. ODIHR will continue to hold awareness-raising workshops for civil society organizations and government officials on this topic.

¹ For the period 8 December 2009 to 31 December 2013.

² See PC Decision 607.

³ See PC Decision 621.

⁴ See MC Decision 10/2005.

⁵ Through the Legislation Review Fund ODIHR reviews legislation relating to hate crime or discrimination at the request of OSCE field operations and participating States. See IRMA number 1300537 for more details.

⁶ Training for law enforcement officers was started up within ODIHR's earlier Law Enforcement Officer Programme for Combating Hate Crime (LEOP).

ODIHR also continues to train members of civil society to become trainers on combating hate crimes and supports those trained to undertake small-scale projects to increase knowledge and awareness of hate crimes locally. Finally, ODIHR will strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to monitor and report on hate crimes.

2.2 *Indicators of achievement (examples)*

- ODIHR's hate crime training curricula are used as part of police/prosecutors/judges' professional training; persons trained by ODIHR carry out further training locally;
- Expressions of interest by state officials and number of downloads on the OSCE website of ODIHR's practical guides;
- Reports of hate-motivated incidents from civil society organizations to ODIHR increase in quality and number;
- Strengthened knowledge and skills lead to country-specific initiatives on improving hate crimes data and monitoring systems, and measurable improvements in data reported in ODIHR's annual hate crime report.

2.3 *Strategy/methodology*

The programme provides an integrated response to the problem of hate crime which, by targeting a number of different institutions/organizations including civil society, creates a 'tipping point' whereby a sufficient number of individuals are trained and sensitized in hate crimes and bring about a change in culture. ODIHR's various training options cover all relevant public officials (government, police, prosecutors, judges) and civil society: from one-day introductory events to training of trainers, cost-effective and customized to local needs. ODIHR will develop ownership by government officials through co-operation with the National Points of Contact on Hate Crime. ODIHR will continue to act as a resource centre on hate crimes for OSCE field operations by developing *ad hoc* tools needed for their own programmes. ODIHR will encourage States to institutionalize training programmes at the national level wherever possible, so as to ensure greater impact and sustainability of the programme.

2.4 *Assumptions and risks*

It is assumed that states will continue to seek ODIHR's assistance for their activities to combat hate crimes. But there is a risk that legal and technical barriers cannot be overcome and hinder effective hate crime data collection. The long-term sustainability of the training programmes will depend on participants remaining active in the field of combating hate crimes.

2.5 *Quality factors*

ODIHR is the only international organization that has developed tools to combat hate crimes that are applicable throughout the OSCE region. ODIHR's focus on civil society as a partner in hate crime prevention ensures its credibility and mobilization of partners on the ground. This programme is especially important in post-conflict areas where hate crimes continue to be a major problem, but where data is not systematically collected nor crimes effectively prosecuted. It therefore focuses on the conflict prevention aspect of hate crimes and importance of protecting vulnerable and minority communities. In training civil society, ODIHR draws on its earlier experience of compiling the civil society resource guide. The programme builds on the work of other parts of ODIHR (e.g. the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues) and other OSCE

institutions and field operations. ODIHR has built strong links with field staff who have requested assistance to improve awareness and capacity relating to hate crimes. This is a major factor in ensuring that activities are needs-driven and sustainable. ODIHR is attentive to a gender-balanced approach in consultation and training.